

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 229

House concurrent resolution honoring Vermont Symphony Orchestra Chorus Director Robert De Cormier on his remarkable career in the musical arts

Offered by: Representatives Devereux of Mount Holly, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Bartholomew of Hartland, Batchelor of Derby, Bissonnette of Winooski, Botzow of Pownal, Branagan of Georgia, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carr of Brandon, Christie of Hartford, Clarkson of Woodstock, Cole of Burlington, Cupoli of Rutland City, Dakin of Chester, Deen of Westminster, Ellis of Waterbury, Emmons of Springfield, Evans of Essex, Fagan of Rutland City, French of Randolph, Gage of Rutland City, Greshin of Warren, Haas of Rochester, Heath of Westford, Higley of Lowell, Hoyt of Norwich, Hubert of Milton, Huntley of Cavendish, Jerman of Essex, Johnson of South Hero, Koch of Barre Town, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lenes of Shelburne, Lippert of Hinesburg, Macaig of Williston, Malcolm of Pawlet, Marek of Newfane, Martin of Wolcott, Masland of Thetford, Moran of Wardsboro, Morrissey of Bennington, Myers of Essex, Partridge of Windham, Pearce of Richford, Pugh of South Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Shaw of Pittsford, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sweaney of Windsor, Taylor of Barre City, Terenzini of Rutland Town, Till of Jericho, Townsend of South Burlington, Webb of Shelburne, Wilson of Manchester, Winters of Williamstown, and Wizowaty of Burlington

Offered by: Senators Benning, Bray, Campbell, Collins, Doyle, Flory, Galbraith, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, McCormack, Mullin, Nitka, Pollina, Sears, Snelling, Starr, Westman, and White

Whereas, the scope and longevity of Robert De Cormier's musical career, featuring both the classical and folk genres, has few parallels, and

Whereas, Robert De Cormier has presented the glorious sounds of the human voice to audiences through concerts, broadcasts, and recordings, and

Whereas, at the Julliard School of Music in New York, Robert De Cormier studied with renowned choral conductor Robert Shaw, and earned both bachelor's and master's degrees, and

Whereas, Robert De Cormier served as musical director for the folk trio Peter, Paul, and Mary and for singer Harry Belafonte, and

Whereas, for 17 years, he conducted the New York Chorale Society, and

Whereas, in 1993, then Vermont Symphony Orchestra (VSO) Manager Thomas Philion, and Music Director Kate Tamarkin, asked Robert De Cormier to establish an orchestral chorus, and

Whereas, their conversations led to the formation of the VSO Chorus, an ensemble that now performs an exciting chorale repertoire to much praise, and

Whereas, the chorale masterpieces VSO audiences have heard include Mozart's Mass in C Minor, Verdi's Requiem, Vaughn Williams' Dona Nobis Pacem, and Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*, and

Whereas, from the membership of the VSO Chorus, Robert De Cormier formed the professional chorale ensemble Counterpoint, which has performed live and recorded presentations to great acclaim, and

Whereas, on Saturday, January 25, in Burlington, and then on Sunday, January 26, in Rutland, the VSO Chorus celebrated its 20th anniversary with performances of Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, which it presented at the inaugural concert, and Brahms's Requiem, and

Whereas, this concert marked Robert De Cormier's farewell to the VSO Chorus, as this venerable musician and winner of the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts retired at the age of 92, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Vermont Symphony Orchestra Chorus Director Robert De Cormier on his remarkable career in the musical arts, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Robert De Cormier.